

N E W S L I N E

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DIR Reminds the Public Works Community of \$2,000 Penalty Effective January 1

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) reminds the public works community that as of January 1, 2016, the penalty for lapsed public works contractor registration (in addition to the \$300 annual renewal fee) will increase from \$300 to \$2,000.

The term “public works contractor” applies to all businesses or sole operators subject to California’s prevailing wage laws.

If you are a public works contractor with an expired registration but you have not bid or worked on any public works projects requiring registration as of July 1, 2015, you can renew your registration for this fiscal year without incurring any penalties.

If you believe your public works contractor registration is active, we encourage you to:

- Use the [active contractor registration search tool](#) to locate and confirm your active registration. (The best way to search is to fill out just the registration number or the license number.)
- If your registration does not come up, it may have expired or you may never have been registered. In this case, go to the [registration/renewal](#) page to activate your registration.
- DIR’s [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for public works has more information on how to register and who must register.

DIR registration requires that all contractors affirm under penalty of perjury that they:

- Have workers’ compensation insurance coverage for all of their employees unless exempt,
- Are in compliance with all applicable workers’ compensation insurance laws,
- Have no outstanding wage judgments, and
- If required, are licensed with the Contractors State License Board.

As a result of [Senate Bill 854](#), all contractors have been required since April 1, 2015, to register with DIR to be awarded a public works contract, even if the project did not go out to bid.

The required annual registration fee of \$300 is used to fund such activities as DIR's compliance enforcement, prevailing wage, public works coverage determinations and enforcement appeal hearings.

DIR maintains a listing of registered contractors and subcontractors on its website to assist awarding bodies who must confirm this registration before considering a bid or awarding a contract, and for contractors who must confirm that their bid team members are registered. For more information, visit the DIR [Public Works page](#).

DIR protects and improves the health, safety and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws.

DIR's Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), also known as the [Labor Commissioner's Office](#), enforces prevailing wage rates and apprenticeship standards in public works projects, inspects workplaces for wage and hour violations, adjudicates wage claims, investigates retaliation complaints, issues licenses and registrations for businesses and educates the public on labor laws.

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). Non-media inquiries can contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.